

Instrument prepared by:

**VIRGINIA GAS AND OIL BOARD**

Order recorded under:

**CODE OF VIRGINIA**  
**§ 45.1-361.26**

**BEFORE THE VIRGINIA GAS AND OIL BOARD**

**RELIEF  
SOUGHT:**

An Order for Disbursement of Escrowed Funds  
(and Authorization for Direct Payment of Royalties)

**JURISDICTION:**

Code of Virginia § 45.1-351. (et seq) AND § 45.1-361.22 (et seq) AND § 45.1-361.22:2

UNIT/WELL NAME: CBM Unit ZZZ-41

TRACT(S): 1

LOCATION: BUCHANAN County, Virginia

**DOCKET NUMBER:** VGOB-09-0616-2530-01

**APPLICANTS:**

ARP Mountaineer Production,LLC on behalf of Derek Browning Rogers, Gregory Poulos,  
Jason Poulos, Kevin Rogers, Pamela Poulos, Shaun Rogers, Talmage G. Rogers, III

**HEARING DATE AND LOCATION:**

Russell County Government Center, Lebanon, Virginia  
October 20, 2015

**APPEARANCES:** Tim Scott on behalf of ARP Mountaineer Production,LLC

**PRIOR PROCEEDINGS:**

1. Original Pooling Order Executed 10/08/2009, Recorded on 10/29/2009, Deed Book/Instrument No. 090003357.
2. Supplemental Order, Recorded on 06/03/2015, Deed Book/Instrument No. 150000885.

**NOTICE:**

The Unit Operator gave notice to the Applicants that the Board would consider its disbursement petition at the October 20, 2015 hearing and considered whether to:

- (1) Amend the Pooling Order to provide for the disbursement of funds on deposit in the Escrow Account attributable to Tract(s) 1 identified in the attached petition.

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(2) Delete the requirement that the Unit Operator place future royalties attributable to Tract(s) 1 relative to the interests of the Applicants identified in the attached petition.

(3) Close the escrow account under this docket number.

**FINDINGS:** Code of Virginia § 45.1-361.22 AND § 45.1-361.22:2

**Applicant has certified and represented to the Board that:**

T.G. Rogers, III, Derek Browning Rogers, Kevin Rogers, Shaun Rogers, Gregory Poulous, Jason Poulous, and Pamela Poulous is entitled to 100% of the CBM royalties awarded under Buchanan County, Virginia Circuit Court Case No. 550-13. Opinion dated July 10, 2014, said decision allows the Applicant and Designated Operator to pay royalties directly to the person(s) identified in Exhibit EE annexed hereto and the annexed Table, further, specified how said royalties are to be paid.

There are no more remaining conflicts after the disbursement, escrow is no longer required and account is to be closed after disbursement.

**RELIEF GRANTED:**

VGOB Disbursement

Unit CBM Unit ZZZ-41

VGOB-09-0616-2530-01

Table 1

Tracts: 1

[illegible]



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DONE AND EXECUTED this 21 day of October, 2015 by a majority of the Virginia Gas and Oil Board.



Chairman, Bradley C. Lambert

DONE AND PERFORMED this 21 day of October, 2015 by Order of the Virginia Gas and Oil Board.



Rick Cooper  
Principal Executive to the  
staff, Virginia Gas and Oil Board

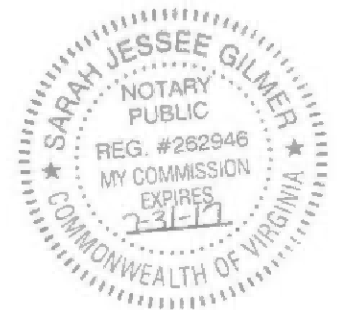
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
COUNTY OF RUSSELL

Acknowledged on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of October, 2015, personally before me a notary public in and for the Commonwealth of Virginia, appeared Bradley C. Lambert, being duly sworn did depose and say that he is the Chairman of the Virginia Gas and Oil Board and appeared Rick Cooper, being duly sworn did depose and say that he is Principal Executive to the staff of the Virginia Gas and Oil Board, that they executed the same and was authorized to do so.



Sarah Jessee Gilmer, Notary Public  
262946

My Commission expires: July 31, 2017



**BEFORE THE VIRGINIA GAS AND OIL BOARD****PETITIONER:** ARP Mountaineer Production, LLC**DIVISION OF GAS AND OIL****DOCKET NO:** VGOB 09-0616-2530-01**RELIEF SOUGHT: (1) DISBURSEMENT FROM ESCROW REGARDING TRACT(S) 1 (2) AND  
AUTHORIZATION FOR DIRECT PAYMENT OF ROYALTIES****HEARING DATE:** October 20, 2015**DRILLING UNIT:** CBM Unit ZZZ-41**BUCHANAN COUNTY, VIRGINIA****PETITION FOR ORDER OF DISBURSEMENT OF ESCROW FUNDS****1. Petitioner and its counsel**

Petitioner is ARP Mountaineer Production, LLC, Park Place Corp Center One, 1000 Commerce Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15275, 412-489-0006. Petitioner's counsel is Tim Scott, McKinnis & Scott Law Firm, 135 W. Main St., Kingsport, TN 37660.

**2. Relief Sought**

The disbursement of escrowed funds heretofore deposited with the Board's Escrow Agent, attributable to Tract 1, as depicted upon the annexed table; and, (2) authorization to begin paying royalties directly to the parties to the prevailing plaintiffs; Talmage G. Rogers, III, Derek Browning Rogers, Kevin Rogers, Shaun Rogers, Gregory Poulos, Jason Poulos and Pamela Poulos. Unit ZZZ-41.

**3. Legal Authority**

Va. Code Ann. § 45.1-361.1 et seq., 4 VAC 25-160-140., and relevant Virginia Gas and Oil Board Orders ("Board") heretofore promulgated pursuant to law.

**4. Type of Well(s)**

Coalbed Methane

**5. Factual basis for relief requested**

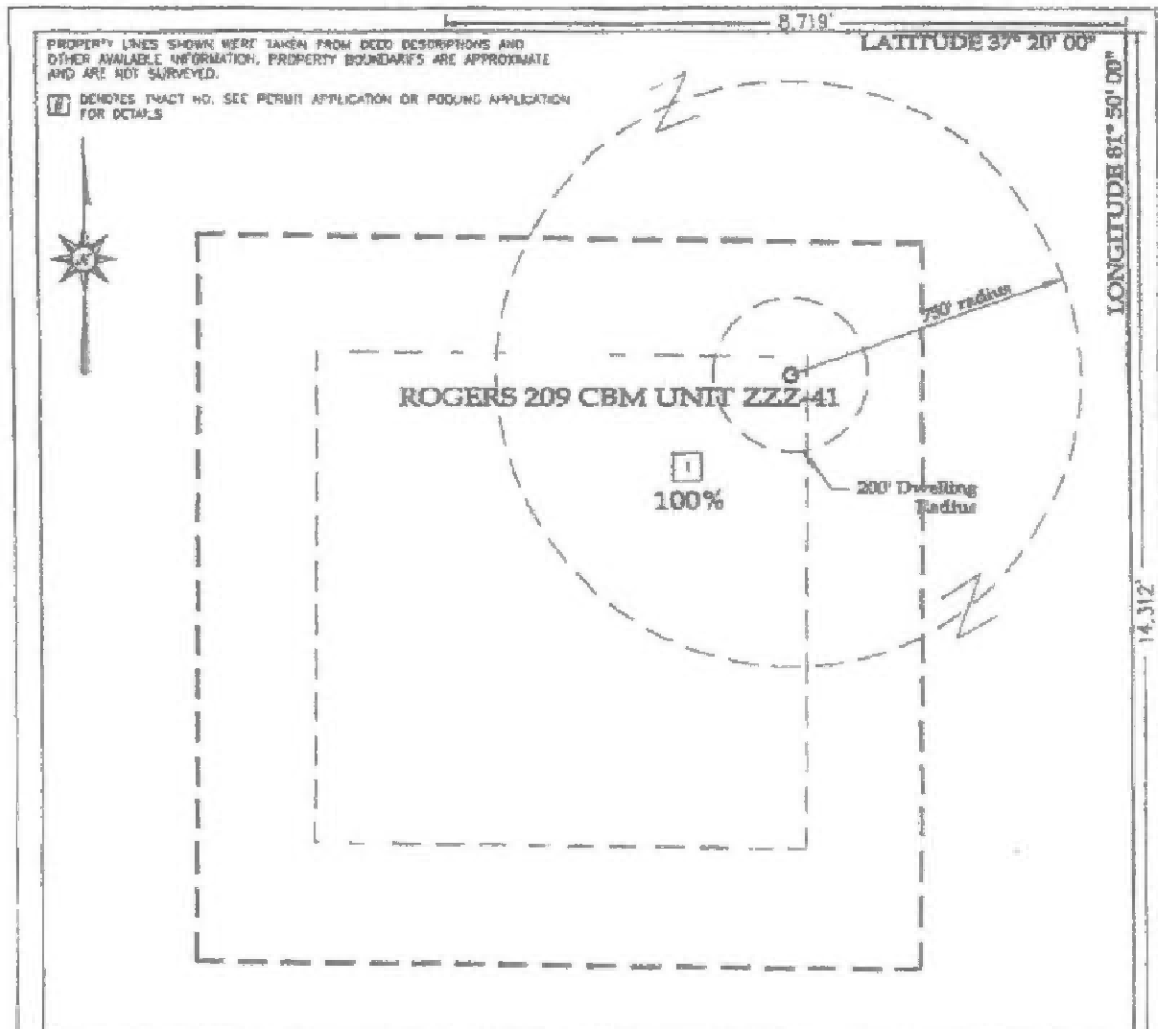
T.G. Rogers, III, Derek Browning Rogers, Kevin Rogers, Shaun Rogers, Gregory Poulos, Jason Poulos, and Pamela Poulos is entitled to 100% of the CBM royalties awarded under Buchanan County, Virginia Circuit Court Case No. 550-13, Opinion dated July 10, 2014, said decision allows the Applicant and Designated Operator to pay royalties directly to the person(s) identified in Exhibit EE annexed hereto and the annexed Table, further, specified how said royalties are to be paid.

There are no more remaining conflicts after the disbursement, escrow is no longer required and account is to be closed after disbursement.

**6. Attestation**

The foregoing Petition to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief is true and correct.

"EXHIBIT A"



## WELL LOCATION PLAT

COMPANY: GEOMET OPERATING COMPANY WELL NAME OR NUMBER: ROGERS 209 CBM UNIT ZZZ-41

TRACT NUMBER: LBR HOLDINGS, LLC (TRACT NO. 56) SCALE: 1" = 400' DATE: 04/14/09

COUNTY: BUCHANAN DISTRICT: NORTH GRUNDY QUADRANGLE: BRADSHAW

ELEVATION: 2,053' METHOD USED TO DETERMINE ELEVATION: G.P.S. CONTROL LOOP

FROM JEWELL SMOKELESS COAL CO. &amp; TEE ENGINEERING CO. CONTROL POINTS

NORTHING - 3,648,078.39' EASTING - 10,504,627.85' (VIRGINIA STATE PLANE - SOUTH ZONE - NAD 83)

NORTHING - 3,671,97.99' EASTING - 1,021,839.29' (VIRGINIA STATE PLANE - SOUTH ZONE - NAD 83)

THIS IS A NEW PLAT ; AN UPDATED PLAT ; OR A FINAL LOCATION PLAT

POOLING PLAT X

+ Denotes the location of a well on United States Topographic Maps, scale 1 to 24,000. Latitude and longitude lines being represented by border lines as shown.

Form DGO-40-1  
Rev. 09/01

*Don F. Blackburn*  
Licensed Professional Engineer or Licensed land surveyor (Affix Seal)



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Well Name : Rogers 209 ZZZ-41

Pooling Plat Attachment A

| Plat Tract Number | Owners            | Percentage Ownership |
|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1.) 56            | LBR Holdings, LLC | 100.00%              |
|                   |                   |                      |
|                   |                   |                      |
|                   |                   |                      |
|                   |                   |                      |

Location Description: 0.88 Miles Northeast of State Route 639jct. W/ State Route 628  
and 1.78 miles Northwest of State Route 635jct. W/State Route 616.

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EXHIBIT E  
LIST OF CONFLICTING AND UNKNOWN OR UNLOCATABLE OWNERS/CLAIMANTS THAT REQUIRE  
ESCROW  
UNIT ZZZ-41  
VOGB DOCKET NO. 09-0616-2530-01

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NONE.



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EXHIBIT EE  
UNIT ZZZ-41

VOGB DOCKET NO. 09-0616-2530-01

List of Respondents with Royalty Split Agreements or Court Orders

|   | PERCENTAGE<br>OWNERSHIP OF<br>TRACT IN<br>DISPUTE | PERCENTAGE<br>OWNERSHIP<br>OF UNIT IN<br>DISPUTE |
|---|---|--|
| <u>Tract 1-(CBM Unit ZZZ-41)</u>          |   |  |
| <u>(79.68 Acres ~100% of 79.68 Acres)</u> |   |  |
| <u>LBR Holdings, LLC et al.</u>           |   |  |
| <u>Tr. No. 56</u>                         |   |  |
| <b>COAL FEE OWNERSHIP</b>                 |   |  |
| <b>LBR HOLDINGS, LLC</b>                  |   |  |
| Fon Rogers, Manager                       |   |  |
| P.O. Box 22427                            |   |  |
| Lexington, KY 40522                       | 25.000000%  | n/a  |
| Total-Coal                                | 25.000000%  | n/a  |
| <b>OIL &amp; GAS OWNERSHIP</b>            |   |  |
| Jason Poulos                              |   |  |
| 10870 SW 95 <sup>th</sup> Street          |   |  |
| Miami, FL 33176                           | 4.166662%   | 4.166662%  |
| Gregory Poulos                            |   |  |
| 1894 Glenwood Street NE                   |   |  |
| Palm Bay, FL 32907                        | 4.166669%   | 4.166669%  |
| Pamela Poulos                             |   |  |
| 5000 SW 83 <sup>rd</sup> St.              |   |  |
| Miami, FL 33143                           | 4.166669%   | 4.166669%  |
| T.G. Rogers, III                          |   |  |
| 3014 Shalford Lane                        |   |  |
| Matthews, NC 28104                        | 3.125000%   | 3.125000%  |
| Shaun Rogers                              |   |  |
| 121 NE 100 <sup>th</sup> St.              |   |  |
| Miami Shores, FL 32960                    | 3.125000%   | 3.125000%  |
| Kevin Rogers                              |   |  |
| 139 Wickham Road                          |   |  |
| Garden City, NY 11530                     | 3.125000%   | 3.125000%  |
| Derek Browning Rogers                     |   |  |
| 2300 Carmel Road                          |   |  |
| Charlotte, NC 28226                       | 3.125000%   | 3.125000%  |
| Total Unit in Dispute                     | 25.000000%  | 25.000000%                                       |

## VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BUCHANAN COUNTY

GREGORY G. POULOS, JASON G. POULOS,  
PAMELA F. POULOS, SHAUN D. ROGERS,  
KEVIN H. ROGERS, DEREK B. ROGERS and  
T.G. ROGERS, III,

Plaintiffs,

v.

LBR HOLDINGS, LLC,

Defendant.

Case No. 550-13

**ORDER**

This matter, having come before the Court for hearing on June 2, 2014, on the parties' respective motions for summary judgment, and the Court, having reviewed the written submissions of the parties and having heard oral argument of counsel, and for good cause shown, hereby ORDERS:

1. Plaintiffs' Complaint and Defendant's Counterclaim both request that this Court, pursuant to Virginia Code § 8.01-184, declare their respective rights under the May 27, 1938, deed ("Deed") attached to Plaintiffs' Complaint as Exhibit "A."
2. The Deed includes a conveyance by T. G. Rogers and Martha F. Rogers, his wife (the "Talmage Rogers Group"), and Lloyd Rogers and Anne F. Rogers, his wife (the "Lloyd Rogers Group"), of their interests in certain parcels of property in Buchanan County, Virginia, (the "Property") and McDowell County, West Virginia, to Lon B. Rogers. The Deed specifically recites: "But there is excepted from the above-described property an undivided one-half interest in the oil and gas under said property and the same is reserved to T. G. Rogers and Lloyd Rogers,

parties of the first part, their heirs and assigns, together with the usual and necessary rights of ingress and egress and drilling rights to explore, get and remove said oil and gas.”

3. It is undisputed that Plaintiffs are the successors to the interests of the Talmage Rogers Group under the Deed, and that Defendant, LBR Holdings, LLC (“LBR”), is the successor to the interests of Lon B. Rogers and the Lloyd Rogers Group under the Deed.

4. Plaintiffs seek a declaration that the Deed’s reservation of gas under the Property includes, *inter alia*, coalbed methane gas, and that they are, therefore, the owners of 25% of the coalbed methane gas under the Property and entitled to the associated royalties. LBR, on the other hand, seeks a declaration that the Deed’s reservation of gas under the Property does not include coalbed methane gas, that the Deed, therefore, conveyed coalbed methane gas to Lon B. Rogers, and that LBR, as Lon B. Rogers’ successor-in-interest, is the owner of all the coalbed methane gas under the Property and entitled to the associated royalties.

5. Having examined the reservation language and the “four corners” of the Deed, the Court finds that the Deed is unambiguous and that the Deed’s reservation of “the oil and gas under said property” includes a reservation of coalbed methane gas under the Property. Plaintiffs are, therefore, entitled to prevail as a matter of law.

6. Coalbed methane gas is obviously “gas,” *see Harrison-Wyatt, LLC v. Ratliff*, 593 S.E.2d at 234, 238 (Va. 2004) (coalbed methane “is a gas”); and there is nothing in the Deed that removes coalbed methane or any other type of gas from the scope of the reservation. The language at issue is unlimited, plain, and unambiguous.

7. LBR argues that “the oil and gas” does not mean “all” but only “some” gas. The Court agrees with Plaintiffs, however, that the reservation of “the” gas is not a limited reservation of only some types of gas, but an unambiguous and unlimited reservation of all gas. Such an

interpretation of "the" is in accordance with the ordinary, plain and common sense meaning of the word.

8. LBR also argues that the parties to the Deed would not have intended to include coalbed methane gas in the reservation because, according to LBR, the commercial value of coalbed methane was not known in 1938. LBR presented no evidence in support of this argument and Plaintiffs presented undisputed evidence to the contrary. Regardless, this Court is bound to uphold the unambiguous reservation language, which refers to gas without qualification or limitation, and which, as written, encompasses all types of gas, whether commercially exploitable at the time of the Deed's execution or not.

9. The Court concludes that the arguments and authorities presented by Plaintiffs in their motion and reply brief are well-founded and correct. A ruling in LBR's favor would require the Court to rewrite the Deed, which it will not do. Nor will the Court torture words and phrases or engage in speculation to create an ambiguity where the ordinary meaning of the words leaves no room for ambiguity.

10. There are no issues of material fact in dispute regarding Plaintiffs' ownership of 25% of the coalbed methane gas under the Property. The Court grants Plaintiffs' motion for summary judgment in full and denies LBR's motion for summary judgment in full.

11. This Order constitutes a judicial determination of coalbed methane gas ownership as between Plaintiffs and LBR pursuant to Virginia Code § 45.1-361.22(5)(i) and resolves in Plaintiffs' favor all conflicting claims of coalbed methane gas ownership between Plaintiffs and LBR relating to the Property.


12. Plaintiffs are entitled to receive all coalbed methane gas royalties attributable to their 25% gas estate interest in the Property that are being held in the Virginia Gas and Oil Board's

escrow account or otherwise being withheld from Plaintiffs due to the conflicting claims of coalbed methane ownership between Plaintiffs and LBR. Plaintiffs are also entitled to receive all future coalbed methane gas royalties or other proceeds that are attributable to their 25% gas estate interest in the Property. All such royalties and proceeds shall be divided among the individual Plaintiffs in accordance with their respective percentages of ownership.

SO ORDERED, this the 10<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2014.

  
Circuit Court Judge



SEEN AND REQUESTED:

  
Jennifer L. Shaver, Esq. (VSB# 79047)  
Ellis Professional Building, Suite A  
211 West Main Street  
Abingdon, VA 24210  
Telephone: (276) 525-1103  
Facsimile: (276) 525-1112  
jen@jenshaver.com

*Counsel for Plaintiffs*

SEEN AND OBJECTED TO FOR ALL THE REASONS DETAILED IN LBR HOLDINGS, LLC'S MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF ITS MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT AND RESPONSE TO PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT AND AT THE HEARING; AND ON THE ADDITIONAL GROUNDS THAT TO THE EXTENT THE COURT MAY HAVE CONSIDERED SUBMISSIONS OF EXHIBITS OTHER THAN THE DEED AT

ISSUE, THE COURT SHOULD HAVE DENIED BOTH PARTIES' MOTIONS FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT SO THAT BOTH PARTIES WOULD HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP AND PROPERLY INTRODUCE SUCH EVIDENCE:

  
Trevor L. Earl, Esq. (VSB# 37573)  
REED WEITKAMP SCHELL & VICE PLLC   
500 West Jefferson Street, Suite 2400  
Louisville, KY 40202  
Telephone: (502) 589-1000  
Facsimile: (502) 562-2200  
tearl@rwsvlaw.com

*Counsel for LBR Holdings, LLC*

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INSTRUMENT #150001750  
RECORDED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF  
BUCHANAN COUNTY ON  
OCTOBER 27, 2015 AT 01:44PM

BEVERLY S. TILLER, CLERK  
RECORDED BY: GGB